

# Kansas Chief.

**{ TERMS---\$2.00 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.**

{WHOLE NO., 536.

For the Farmer:

### Plowing in the Fall.

One of the main benefits claimed for the practice of Fall plowing for corn is that it is a sure preventive of the ravages of the cut-worm; those who follow the practice generally account for this fact upon the theory that plowing in the Fall brings this chrysalis to one of the surface.

During the winter, an egg is deposited near the surface and is killed by the freezing during the Winter and Spring months. Now a slight examination of the insect which is the parent of the caterpillar, will plainly show that it could not deposit the egg at any great distance from the surface, for its structure is so complicated and of such a form as to entirely preclude all idea of its egg deeper than a fraction of an inch. And furthermore, if the parent insect was capable of burrowing its egg to the depth of five or six inches, those who have examined the ground in any grub which constitutes the future of the grub, would have been convinced that it could never have worked its way through a very great depth

The egg is deposited in the same manner as that of our common road beetle and is encased in manure, and deposited among the roots of grass, in small balls about the size of a small pea, but more elongated, and coated on top with a peculiar waterproof composition; if a drop of water is placed on this surface, it runs off in many places. On the other side of the ball (it is placed by the female) is a flat surface, which, unlike the remainder, is not entirely water-proof, but only partially so, for water dropped there will be slowly absorbed until the whole

become saturated, but the outside of the water-proof coating. It seems as if the water-proof quality was not put on the inside of the ball had reached its destined position, and then the insect was not able to get under it when it reeled on the ground, and hence could not protect itself from the water of the coating, as he is now surrounded by the water. Now, I will not pretend to deny that at Fall plowing for corn, if carefully done, is a preventive of the ravages of the cut-worm, but I do not think that it is the best effect is due to freezing, for we seldom have winters during which the cold does not go much more than four or five

I am more fully convinced that the water which is absorbed by the egg is not due to the above cause, but to the fact that the early spring water is so warm as to have much effect upon the water which is to produce the embryo. I am more fully convinced that the water which is absorbed by the egg is not due to the above cause, but to the fact that the early spring water is so warm as to have much effect upon the water which is to produce the embryo. I am more fully convinced that the water which is absorbed by the egg is not due to the above cause, but to the fact that the early spring water is so warm as to have much effect upon the water which is to produce the embryo.

not the watchful of the sun and air, that it cannot be watched, or if it should be watched it cannot force its way to the surface as the sun and air do. So you must believe in "self-planting" in the attempt." In this case, at least, I wish to believe in "self-planting" in the following of my preachment rather than my practice.

"I don't carry any seed or grain," said the farmer, "but I have a lot of money. The same money expended in the Spring plowing and harrowing, will put the ground into much better order.

"My plan would be to plow the ground intended for oats and potatoes first in the fall, and then, if the season would permit, plow the sod for corn, for I consider more good can be done by Fall plowing for oats and potatoes than for corn, and especially for potatoes."

In answer to your question, "Whether Fall plowing is independent of crop rotation?" the instructor says that it does not increase the amount of the crop, but confuses I cannot answer with any certainty, not having fairly tried the experiment.

Some consider that ground can harden in the winter, and that it is better to plow in the fall. But it is not—that is, in seasons when the cold is not so severe. In such seasons the ground is not so hard, and the plowing is not so troublesome; the seed is not so likely to be killed by the frost, and the plowing is not so likely to be done upon Fall-plowed land will be a better one. In such seasons the plowing is, if as good, as that where the plowing was performed late in the winter. In such seasons the plowing is better.

In answer to your third question, I would say that I think it does require more labor to plow in the fall than in the spring, for early in the season the soil is not so hard, and the plowing is not so troublesome. But it is not yet settled after the loosening of the soil by the frost, and the plowing is not so hard as it is in the winter's frost, and will turn out to be a better one than it would be in the spring. In such seasons the plowing is better.

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too wet for Fall plowing—that Fall plowing wet ground does not produce the same bad effect as Spring plowing, with the soil in the same condition as to moisture; this I think is a mistake, for working the soil when too wet will have a bad effect, whether it be done in the Fall, Winter or Spring.—*Cornwall Telegraph*.